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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Australia

* The annex to the present report is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Australia was held at the 12th meeting on 9 November 2015. The delegation of Australia was headed by First Assistant Secretary, International Law and Human Rights Division, Attorney-General's Department, John Reid. At its 17th meeting held on 12 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Australia.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Australia: Germany, Japan and Namibia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Australia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/AUS/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/AUS/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/AUS/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Australia through the troika. These questions are available on the universal periodic review extranet.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation expressed the support of Australia for the universal periodic review and noted the country's long tradition of robust commitment to supporting and promoting human rights internationally. In line with that tradition, Australia was seeking a seat on the Human Rights Council during 2018-2020 to strengthen its global leadership on human rights.

6. Australia thanked the Australian Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations for their involvement in the review process, and reaffirmed its commitment to engage in a wide-ranging and balanced human rights debate.

7. As part of the country's positive engagement with the universal periodic review, the delegation announced nine voluntary commitments (see section III below).

8. Two members of Parliament were part of the delegation, Philip Ruddock and Anne McEwen, the Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively, of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. Mr. Ruddock is also the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights.

9. Mr. Ruddock explained the role of the Joint Committee in promoting human rights domestically by means of the requirement for laws to be accompanied by a statement of compatibility with human rights.

10. Mr. Ruddock and Ms. McEwen also discussed two current Sub-Committee inquiries, into the advocacy of Australia for the abolition of the death penalty and into challenges facing women and girls of the Indian Ocean-Asia Pacific region. The former inquiry built on the long-standing position of Australia as an advocate for global abolition of the death penalty, exploring options to enhance that advocacy. The latter inquiry was investigating barriers and impediments to enhancing the human rights of women and girls, especially the impact of family and sexual violence, women's leadership and economic opportunities.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

11. During the interactive dialogue, 104 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

12. Djibouti welcomed various initiatives to improve the situation of indigenous peoples, and the universal programmes on education, health and employment.

13. Egypt noted that reports concerning racial discrimination and violence, rising Islamophobia, mandatory immigrant detention and policy of the pushback of boats required attention and the situation of indigenous Australians remained of concern.

14. Estonia welcomed Parliament's recommendation to explicitly refer to indigenous peoples in the Constitution.

15. Fiji noted with concern that the commitment of Australia to reducing greenhouse gas emissions would not be sufficient and that its third-country processing regime for asylum seekers breached human rights.

16. France inquired about the policy of pushing back boats of migrants and drew attention to the precarious situation of refugees receiving only temporary visas.

17. Georgia welcomed the appointment of the full-time Human Rights Commissioner and highlighted Australian efforts to contribute to gender equality and good governance.

18. Germany made a statement.

19. Ghana was concerned at alleged ill-treatment of asylum seekers in offshore processing centres.

20. Greece highlighted the commitment of Australia to constitutionally recognizing indigenous peoples and the importance of the work of the Human Rights Commission.

21. Guatemala welcomed the holding of a referendum on recognition of indigenous peoples in the Constitution and shared the concerns regarding the pushing-back to sea of boats of asylum seekers.

22. The Holy See acknowledged efforts to empower persons with disabilities and to close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians and its commitment to combating trafficking in persons.

23. Honduras welcomed the establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

24. Hungary noted the intention to hold a referendum to constitutionally recognize indigenous Australians. It expressed concern that no progress has been made on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

25. Iceland expressed concern about reports of the treatment of asylum seekers in immigration detention and the legal protection of children in families headed by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

26. India urged the revision of laws and policies to fully recognize and protect the rights of the indigenous peoples across the nation.

27. Indonesia appreciated the requirement that a statement of compatibility with human rights accompanied any federal legislation, and the plans on disability and reducing violence.

28. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed concern about the mandatory immigration detention regime and the lack of measures to prevent child exploitation and violence against women and children.

29. Iraq was pleased with efforts to recognize indigenous people in the Constitution and reform programmes for indigenous children and their employment.

30. Ireland encouraged equal recognition of same-sex marriage and was concerned at the postponed Special Rapporteur visit, the continued detention of children in offshore centres and the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples in detention.

31. Israel welcomed the continued efforts to achieve a gender diversity target of 40 per cent on government boards and various measures on gender, disability and trafficking.

32. Italy appreciated the adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019 and the commitment to hold a referendum to constitutionally recognize indigenous Australians.

33. Japan was concerned at reports that indigenous peoples were subjected to discrimination and at the transfer of asylum seekers to other countries, while commending the acceptance by Australia of a large number of immigrants.

34. Kenya welcomed measures to improve the human rights of the most vulnerable in society.

35. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended efforts to promote the rights of indigenous people and progress in improving gender equality.

36. Libya called for more efforts to combat discrimination and promote the rights of the indigenous peoples in areas of health, education and childhood.

37. Lithuania commended the progress in implementing the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.

38. Luxembourg welcomed federal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and noted the remaining challenges regarding the treatment of migrants and discrimination against indigenous peoples.

39. Malaysia noted achievements in ensuring gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities; however, there was room to improve the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples.

40. Maldives inquired about efforts made to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to safe levels.

41. Mauritius commended the reform agenda of Australia for indigenous affairs and welcomed its multicultural policy.

42. Mexico commended progress in public spending and human rights promotion and noted efforts to constitutionally recognize indigenous peoples.

43. Montenegro asked about the concrete measures undertaken to address violence, exploitation and abuse experienced by women and girls with disabilities in institutional settings.

44. Morocco welcomed awareness-raising measures to combat discrimination against Australian indigenous populations and commitments to combat slavery and human trafficking.

45. Mozambique noted the National Disability Strategy and Insurance Scheme, which were in line with human rights conventions.

46. Australia, responding to recommendations, noted that it was actively considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and its implementation in a federal system.

47. In addressing observations and recommendations relating to immigration, the delegation explained Australia was committed to ensuring that its position as one of the top three resettlement countries referred to by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued. Its strong border protection mechanisms had been successful in hampering the people smuggling trade and saving lives at sea.

48. Regarding regional processing arrangements, the delegation explained that the Government respected the jurisdiction of both Nauru and Papua New Guinea as sovereign countries, and noted that both countries had agreed to treat transferees with dignity and respect and ensure that relevant human rights standards, as well as the principle of non-refoulement, were met.

49. The delegation explained that mandatory immigration detention was not exercised arbitrarily and that there had been significant headway in reducing the numbers of children held in detention. It was the Government's position that children were not held in immigration detention centres but accommodated in alternative places of detention. The delegation explained that the country's immigration detention network was under independent scrutiny by a range of bodies, including the Commonwealth Ombudsman and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

50. The delegation noted the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019. Australia reaffirmed its commitment to efforts that strengthened regional frameworks on irregular migration and human trafficking, including the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

51. Myanmar welcomed the appointment of the Human Rights Commissioner to advance civil and political rights, the commitment to reducing the gender gap and the $4.4 billion Families Package.

52. Namibia noted initiatives to improve the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and commended the introduction of the Child Care Subsidy and Child Care Safety Net.

53. The Netherlands encouraged adequate funding for initiatives to reduce violence against women, while noting that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were de facto discriminated against in the Marriage Act.

54. New Zealand commended amendment of the Sex Discrimination Act and noted that further work was needed in the area of indigenous and minority rights.

55. Nicaragua welcomed the holding of a referendum that sought to constitutionally recognize indigenous peoples.

56. Nigeria commended the National Anti-Racism Partnership and programmes for persons with disabilities and urged Australia to hold the constitutional referendum.

57. Norway was concerned at conditions for asylum seekers and that the disproportionately high rate of incarceration of indigenous persons remained a critical issue.

58. Pakistan noted with concern the increasing number of incidents of violence against women and growing poverty and homelessness, especially of women, the elderly and children.

59. Panama welcomed the publication of the National Human Rights Action Plan in 2012 and the Multicultural Policy against racism.

60 Paraguay welcomed the adoption of gender equality legislation and policies for persons with disabilities and expressed concern about the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

61. Peru recognized progress regarding the Multicultural Policy and the forthcoming referendum on the constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples.

62. The Philippines encouraged Australia to continue to address the concerns of indigenous peoples and to protect the rights of migrants and asylum seekers by devising alternatives to detention.

63. Poland was concerned about the situation of indigenous children, but welcomed efforts to include new anti-discrimination guarantees in the Constitution.

64. Portugal recalled the interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights.

65. The Republic of Korea welcomed the country's Human Rights Framework and noted that the rights of indigenous peoples and asylum seekers could still be improved.

66. The Republic of Moldova welcomed actions to redress past profound injustices faced by indigenous peoples and certain disadvantages still experienced today.

67. The Russian Federation noted the slow progress in implementing recommendations and suggested that the Government carried out the promised referendum on constitutional recognition.

68. Rwanda expressed concern at the continued detention of migrants and asylum seekers and the continued disparities in access to services for indigenous communities.

69. Senegal welcomed the establishment of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, the Multicultural Policy and the National Anti-Racism Partnership.

70. Serbia commended efforts to eliminate discrimination against marginalized groups and encouraged continued efforts to promote gender equality in the workplace.

71. Sierra Leone commended several human rights policies and was concerned at reports of the forced repatriation of migrants and asylum seekers and the situation in offshore detention centres.

72. Singapore commended efforts to promote gender equality and empower women and recognized the National Disability Strategy's inclusive approach.

73. Slovakia welcomed efforts to recognize indigenous Australians in the Constitution and emphasized the need to ensure the rights of children in immigration detention were equally protected.

74. Slovenia commended the nomination of the first indigenous representative to the Government and was concerned at reports about conditions in offshore processing centres and mandatory detentions.

75. South Africa was concerned about the continued absence of an entrenched guarantee of non-discrimination in current laws, resulting in continued racial discrimination against indigenous peoples.

76. Spain recognized efforts made, particularly the preparation of a national human rights action plan and the reform of the legislation on sexual discrimination.

77. Sri Lanka acknowledged the challenges associated with providing welfare for migrants and protecting their rights.

78. Sweden noted that Australia was the only country in the world that used offshore processing and mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

79. Switzerland remained concerned about legislation on migrants and its application. It regretted the rejection of its recommendation in that regard during the first review cycle.

80. Tajikistan welcomed the steps taken to prevent torture and violence and age-related discrimination and noted efforts in combating people trafficking.

81. Thailand commended continued engagement with civil society in the review process. It hoped the Government would continue promoting regional cooperation to address growing migration crises.

82. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia enquired about measures to decrease violence against women, especially indigenous women, and about the implementation of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

83. Timor-Leste appreciated progress on the establishment of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights and on recommendations to refer explicitly to indigenous people in the Constitution.

84. Trinidad and Tobago noted the full-time Human Rights Commissioner and the commitment to closing gaps in health, education and employment opportunities for indigenous Australians.

85. Tunisia encouraged the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, reform of the juvenile justice system, review of Australian migration policy and strengthened efforts to combat and prevent racist violence.

86. The delegation noted the ongoing implementation by Australia of the National Disability Strategy and the creation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which was designed to provide lifetime support to people with significant and permanent disability and their carers.

87. Australia assured delegates of its support of the right of people with disability to exercise their legal capacity and recognized that, in some cases, people with disabilities might require support in exercising that capacity. Regarding forced sterilization, the delegation noted that a sterilization procedure could only occur with the person's consent or, if the person were unable to give valid consent, with authorization from a court or guardianship tribunal.

88. The delegation responded to recommendations and concerns regarding violence against women, explaining the content of the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. The delegation gave an overview of the newly announced Women's Safety Package and national campaign to accelerate the efforts to reduce violence against women.

89. The delegation explained Australian efforts to promote women's participation in the workforce and their economic security, providing an overview of investments to improve

the accessibility and affordability of childcare, support women in small business and help unemployed women to become job ready.

90. The delegation noted the country's commitment to closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. The Government was committed to building a partnership with indigenous Australians and consulting them on decisions that affected them. A new regional network had been established, allowing the Prime Minister's Department's officials to work directly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

91. The delegation discussed the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and initiatives to improve outcomes in education, health and employment and to provide economic development opportunities for indigenous Australians. It outlined initial outcomes from activities to improve school attendance rates in remote areas. The Government was funding initiatives to directly tackle indigenous incarceration rates and provided substantial funding for indigenous interpreting services to combat language barriers faced in relation to legal and justice matters.

92. Turkey applauded the commitment to the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, encouraged efforts to eradicate violence against women and remained concerned about the rights of migrants.

93. Ukraine encouraged Australia to remain committed to implementing its obligations pertaining to the rights of women, older persons, refugees and asylum seekers.

94. The United Arab Emirates noted reports of discrimination and racism, particularly associated with Islamophobia and against indigenous people.

95. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged the Government to work with indigenous communities through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and welcomed the commitment to implement the Moss Review's recommendations.

96. The United States of America encouraged Australia to ensure humane treatment and respect for asylum seekers and noted the concerns of some remote Western Australian indigenous peoples about government support for their communities. It welcomed the package addressing domestic violence.

97. Uruguay encouraged Australia to continue its good work on reducing violence against women and children and for women's economic empowerment and leadership, and hoped that the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture would soon be ratified.

98. Uzbekistan noted with satisfaction the intention to hold a referendum, the reform of criminal legislation and the adoption of national action plans.

99. Viet Nam appreciated recent human rights achievements and commended the country's bilateral dialogues and provision of technical assistance.

100. Afghanistan welcomed efforts undertaken by Australia to empower persons with disabilities through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

101. Albania commended progress on the freedoms of speech and of religion, the appointment of the full-time Human Rights Commissioner and measures for multiculturalism. It encouraged further improvement on indigenous peoples' human rights.

102. Algeria noted that, despite measures taken, the gender pay gap persisted and encouraged the stepping up of efforts to protect the rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

103. Angola noted the solid human rights protection system in a multicultural country where each state and territory had its own body responsible for combating discrimination and promoting equal opportunity.

104. Argentina commended the launching of the Second National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children and noted efforts to support different groups of the population.

105. Armenia underscored Australian engagement in the prevention of crimes against humanity. It welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery.

106. Azerbaijan welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan and the establishment of a public online database of recommendations from United Nations human rights mechanisms.

107. Bahrain was concerned with reports on the conditions of refugees and asylum seekers and denial of their rights and the lack of efforts to respect the rights of indigenous peoples and disabled persons.

108. Bangladesh commended the Family Tax Benefit and Australian engagement in the Nansen Initiative. It was concerned at reports of discrimination and racism.

109. Belarus expressed concern over the unsatisfactory situation of women in political and professional life, domestic violence and non-compliance of the migration policy with international standards.

110. Benin encouraged continued implementation of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020.

111. Bhutan recognized the contribution of Australia to supporting human rights internationally and commended its strong national framework for protecting children.

112. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized progress made since the first review.

113. Botswana commended measures to address trafficking and family violence and noted reports of mandatory sentencing disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples.

114. Brazil noted the deteriorating treatment of refugees and asylum seekers and encouraged stepped-up efforts to eradicate poverty, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

115. Canada welcomed the National Disability Strategy and encouraged continued government work to reduce indigenous imprisonment.

116. Chad appreciated Australian advances in civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights, particularly for gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities and children.

117. Chile valued the studies undertaken to ratify international human rights instruments and progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

118. China welcomed increased efforts in the field of indigenous affairs, gender equality, the protection of persons with disabilities and the commitment to further assist refugees and asylum seekers.

119. Colombia noted the adoption of national policies to combat racism and trafficking and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

120. Costa Rica recognized progress on women's rights and was concerned about allegations concerning the situation of older persons in residential homes, the indefinite detention of persons with disabilities and discrimination against indigenous peoples.

121. Croatia noted many positive actions and asked about steps to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility and cease the detention of children in adult facilities.

122. Cuba noted the high level of indigenous Australians in prison, the excessive use of force by police and that the concerns expressed by UNHCR about the response of Australia to the arrival of migrants by sea should be fully taken into account.

123. The Czech Republic appreciated the response to some of its advance questions.

124. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained concerned at the reported maltreatment of refugees and asylum seekers and violations of the rights of Australian indigenous people.

125. Denmark noted that Australia had still to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

126. Ecuador welcomed Parliament's proposed constitutional reform to include a reference to Australian indigenous peoples and the 2010 legal amendments on prohibiting torture and the death penalty.

127. The delegation addressed the rights of older persons, noting the strong legal protections for the rights of older people and the prohibition of age discrimination in areas of public life, including accommodation, education, employment and the provision of goods and services.

128. The delegation discussed Australian commitment to addressing barriers to workforce participation and the role of the Age Discrimination Commissioner and Ambassador for Mature Age Employment in raising awareness of age discrimination and of the business benefits of hiring older workers.

129. Responding to recommendations on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, the delegation noted the Government's commitment to holding a plebiscite on marriage equality after the next election. In 2013, Australia had amended its Sex Discrimination Act to provide protection from unlawful discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. The delegation reported that temporary exemptions from these new laws to facilitate any amendments necessary to state and territory laws would not be extended beyond 31 July 2016.

130. The delegation noted that Australia encouraged businesses to apply the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their operations. Australia encouraged industry-led discussions on the implementation of the Guiding Principles and was considering further what role Government might play to support this. There were already comprehensive domestic laws in relation to anti-discrimination, privacy, employment conditions and criminal offences for serious misconduct, such as forced labour, slavery and torture.

131. Turning to racism and multiculturalism, the delegation explained the role of the dedicated Race Discrimination Commissioner in promoting social harmony and community resilience, including through the successful "Racism. It Stops With Me" campaign. The delegation noted the Multicultural Access and Equity Policy, which acknowledged an obligation on government departments and agencies to provide equitable access to services regardless of the cultural or linguistic background of clients.

132. Responding to comments on children within the criminal justice system, the delegation explained that the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Australia was 10 years. However, the application of the safeguard principle of *doli incapax* between the ages of 10 and 14 provided a gradual transition to full criminal responsibility. Mandatory minimum sentences did not apply to any offences committed by children under federal law,

and in states and territories where mandatory sentencing did apply to children, it applied only in very limited circumstances.

133. Regarding concerns about the treatment of prisoners, Australian states and territories delivered corrective services in line with the Standard Guidelines for Corrections in Australia, which were generally consistent with internationally accepted standards, such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

134. In closing, the delegation thanked all delegations for their constructive and considered comments, questions and recommendations. The delegation expressed its thanks for the active involvement of civil society and noted the further consultation process.

135. The delegation expressed the hope that the future responses of Australia to the recommendations would highlight its steadfast and ongoing commitment to the universal periodic review, human rights mechanisms more broadly and the protection and promotion of human rights in Australia, the region and the world.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

136. **The following recommendations will be examined by Australia which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council in March 2016:**

136.1 **Ratify the international human rights instruments to which it is not a party and bring its internal legal framework into line with international obligations (Trinidad and Tobago);**

136.2 **Consider the ratification of human rights conventions to which it is not yet a State party (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

136.3 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Ghana);**

136.4 **Consider favourably the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Peru);**

136.5 **Take further steps towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Ukraine);**

136.6 **Initiate the accession procedure to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Serbia);**

136.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Estonia);**

136.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Georgia);**

136.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Italy);**

136.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Lithuania);**

136.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Luxembourg);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

136.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Montenegro);**

136.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Paraguay);**

136.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Switzerland);**

136.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

136.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Turkey);**

136.17 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Albania);**

136.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Azerbaijan);**

136.19 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Benin);**

136.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in keeping with the commitment undertaken by Australia during its previous UPR (France);**

136.21 **Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a National Preventive Mechanism for places of detention (Republic of Moldova);**

136.22 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture without further delay, as previously recommended (Denmark);**

136.23 **Ratify and effectively implement, before its next UPR cycle, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Czech Republic);**

136.24 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and implement a National Preventative Mechanism (New Zealand);**

136.25 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and promptly implement it (Chile);**

136.26 **Expedite the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in order to allow for the early establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (Hungary);**

136.27 **Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a National Preventative Mechanism (Sweden);**

136.28 **Speed up the process of the on-going consultations on the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in the hope that the country ratifies this important instrument for the protection and promotion of human rights (Mozambique);**

136.29 **Step up efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Philippines);**

136.30 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);**

136.31 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

136.32 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);**

136.33 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Albania);**

136.34 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Italy);**

136.35 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro);**

136.36 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mexico);**

136.37 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria);**

136.38 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

136.39 **Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

136.40 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

136.41 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);**

136.42 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

136.43 **Ratify on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

136.44 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

136.45 **Ratify International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Senegal);**

136.46 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Convention on Migrant Workers (Sierra Leone);**

136.47 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bahrain);**

136.48 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Benin);**

136.49 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and promptly implement it (Chile);**

136.50 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ghana);**

136.51 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);**

136.52 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

136.53 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognize the competence of the Committee (Uruguay);**

136.54 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Cuba);**

136.55 **Consider ratifying the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court adopted in Kampala, Uganda in 2010 (Ghana);**

136.56 **Ratify the ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment (Uzbekistan);**

136.57 **Ratify the ILO Convention No. 169 (Chile);**

136.58 **Continue its efforts at the international level towards the prevention of crimes against humanity (Armenia);**

136.59 **Withdraw its reservation on article 4 (a) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (South Africa);**

136.60 **Submit overdue reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Sierra Leone);**

136.61 **Implement recommendations from the Committee against Torture (Timor-Leste);**

136.62 **Take urgent measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the UNHCR, the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures as regards asylum seekers and illegal migrants (Belarus);**

136.63 **Cooperate fully with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and ensure everyone enjoys the right to unhindered access to and communication with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms, including by preventing and ensuring adequate protection against reprisals (Ireland);**

136.64 **Analyse the possibility of creating a follow-up system to the international recommendations (Paraguay);**

136.65 **Extend the mandate of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights to include the domestic consideration and oversight of implementation of recommendations from United Nations human rights mechanisms (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

136.66 **Engage closely with civil society in the follow-up on the recommendations of the Human Rights Council (Trinidad and Tobago);**

136.67 **Revise the decision to reduce the AHRC's funds in order to guarantee its independent and effective functioning (Hungary);**

136.68 **Carry out an assessment of plans of action on human rights and ensure that these instruments are effective in practice (Belarus);**

136.69 **Prepare a comprehensive national action plan defining responsibilities, benchmarks and indicators to measure progress achieved (Panama);**

136.70 **Consolidate national human rights efforts through a federal human rights act and reinvigorating the National Human Rights Plan of Action (Indonesia);**

136.71 **Fully incorporate its international human-rights obligations into domestic law by introducing a comprehensive judicially enforceable federal Human Rights Act (Iceland);**

136.72 **Incorporate international human rights obligations into domestic law by adopting a comprehensive Human Rights Act at federal level (Turkey);**

136.73 **Consider establishing a comprehensive human rights act as recommended by the National Human Rights Consultative Committee (Canada);**

136.74 **Advance efforts towards the recognition of Indigenous Australians as Australia's First People in Australia's Constitution (Georgia);**

136.75 **Continue its ongoing efforts towards the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous persons, through law and practice, including by giving constitutional recognition (Sri Lanka);**

136.76 **Implement Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians and continue to exert efforts to fully implement the Indigenous Advancement Strategy in order to ensure the indigenous people have sufficient access to health services, education and employment opportunities (Republic of Korea);**

136.77 **Implement the recommendations from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (Costa Rica);**

136.78 **Continue to promote and strengthen the rights of Indigenous peoples (Djibouti);**

136.79 **Continue its efforts to guarantee the human rights of Indigenous peoples (Holy See);**

136.80 **Work towards ensuring full respect for the human rights of indigenous people, and continue the ongoing consultations and with a serious pace with the indigenous peoples, regarding the implementation of legislation entitled "Towards a better future" (Bahrain);**

136.81 **Strengthen measures to eliminate discrimination against persons belonging to indigenous populations (France);**

136.82 **Harmonize legislation relating to the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, at all levels, with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Honduras);**

136.83 **Revise laws and national, regional and local policies to fully recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples in domestic law uniformly throughout the nation (Cuba);**

136.84 **Adhere to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Senegal);**

136.85 **Develop in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a National Strategy to give effect to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to facilitate the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal Australians (Estonia);**

136.86 **Develop, in partnership with indigenous communities, a national strategy to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Hungary);**

136.87 **Continue to support indigenous institutions that bring cohesion to communities, such as the National Congress of the First Peoples of Australia (Peru);**

136.88 **Take necessary measures to ensure consultation and participation of indigenous peoples in the processes of the elaboration of public policies that is of interest to them (Paraguay);**

136.89 **Ensure adequate consultations with indigenous peoples in the formulation of policies affecting them (India);**

136.90 **Take all necessary measures to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples give their consent to the development and implementation of policies and programmes that impact upon their communities and futures (Namibia);**

136.91 **Ensure that indigenous peoples are consulted when considering the viability of remote communities, and that those affected by closures of communities receive transitional support and unimpeded access to ancestral lands (United States of America);**

136.92 **Implement policies oriented to the development of remote communities and ensure the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples interested in remaining in their land of origin (Mexico);**

136.93 **Continue to work towards closing the existing gaps in the protection of human rights and the promotion of welfare for indigenous peoples in order to achieve sustainable economic and social development (Thailand);**

136.94 **Continue ongoing efforts to close the gaps in opportunities between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians (Italy);**

136.95 **Implement the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in health, education, housing and employment (Canada);**

136.96 **Continue efforts to close the gap in opportunities and life outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, according to the Close the Gap Campaign and its Progress and Priorities report 2015 (Croatia);**

136.97 **Continue making progress in the implementation of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy to promote better opportunities in the areas of education, health and employment for indigenous communities (Colombia);**

136.98 **Continue its efforts in closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians in health, education, employment opportunities and access to justice (Malaysia);**

136.99 **Make further efforts to protect and promote the human rights of indigenous people, including the taking of measures to address the issue of poverty among them (Japan);**

136.100 **Take effective legislative and practical measures for the comprehensive protection and promotion of civil, social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples (Uzbekistan);**

136.101 **Eliminate the disparities in access to services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families, especially by reviewing the Australian birth registration process in order to ensure that all children are registered at birth (Poland);**

136.102 **Continue strengthening the efforts in promoting and protecting non-racial discriminatory policy and specifically also ensure that Aboriginal children have access to birth registration (Timor-Leste);**

136.103 **Step up efforts to address the economic and social inequalities affecting the indigenous peoples (Luxembourg);**

136.104 **Ensure that Aboriginal and other indigenous communities are accorded equal access to services including to judicial remedies for discrimination and racism (Rwanda);**

136.105 **Continue strengthening the access mechanisms to social services for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (Timor-Leste);**

136.106 **Take legislative measures to continue to guarantee rights and equal treatment for the indigenous people in order to ensure national cohesion and social harmony (Angola);**

136.107 **Take immediate measures to ensure that the indigenous people of Australia have access to health services, education, and to full employment opportunities (Maldives);**

136.108 **Continue strengthening measures to address disparities in the access to education and health services for aboriginal and islander children and their families (Ecuador);**

136.109 **Continue to implement the necessary measures to ensure indigenous children access to quality education (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

136.110 **Continue to implement indigenous education reforms (Slovakia);**

136.111 **Ensure access to good-quality education, including postgraduate education and vocational training, for indigenous women (United Arab Emirates);**

136.112 **Intensify efforts in enhancing the rights of Indigenous Australians: by addressing the underlying causes of their plight, by providing opportunities in health, education, housing and employment; and addressing the high rate of their incarceration in prison (Kenya);**

136.113 **Reduce the rate of family separation of indigenous peoples caused, among others, by the removal of babies and children from their families and the imprisonment of juveniles and adults (Paraguay);**

136.114 **Continue concerted efforts for the preservation of the cultural and linguistic identity of Indigenous peoples (Greece);**

136.115 **Take further efforts to protect the special cultures of the indigenous people and enhance protection to the cultural archaeology (Iraq);**

136.116 **Remove from the Constitution provisions allowing racial discrimination (Russian Federation);**

136.117 **Enact comprehensive legislation that fully guarantees the application of the principle of non-discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society (South Africa);**

136.118 **Strengthen further already existing anti-discriminatory measures and laws (Morocco);**

136.119 **Scale up its efforts to ensure equal protection against all forms of discrimination (Trinidad and Tobago);**

136.120 **Enact comprehensive equality legislation that will provide effective remedies and address discrimination on all grounds (Serbia);**

136.121 **Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation in order to prevent racial, religious and social discrimination (Uzbekistan);**

136.122 **Put an end to racism and racial discrimination, in particular, against the indigenous people, including demolition of buildings and discontinuation of funding to essential and municipal services in indigenous communities pursued by both federal and local governments, as well as the enforced sterilization and adoption of indigenous women and children (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

136.123 **Continue paying special attention to the implementation of national policies for marginalized or vulnerable social groups, including migrant children, aboriginals and disabled persons (Nicaragua);**

136.124 **Reinforce the measures to combat discrimination against minority groups, particularly towards persons with disabilities, older persons and religious minorities (Argentina);**

136.125 **Continue to address the problem associated with racial discrimination and policy disparities against indigenous persons (Nigeria);**

136.126 **Revise laws and policies to recognize and protect the rights of the minorities, including Indigenous People (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

136.127 **Continue to address inequalities affecting human rights in the areas of health, education, employment and income that disproportionately affect indigenous peoples and other minority groups (New Zealand);**

136.128 **Affirm their commitment to an inclusive society by continuing to support National Anti-Racism Strategies and programmes aimed at building social cohesion and community harmony (Namibia);**

136.129 **Continue further with its initiative to promote community cohesion and social harmony (Mauritius);**

136.130 **Further promote multiculturalism including by taking measures against incitement of discrimination or violence, based on race or religions, and strengthening interfaith dialogue among communities (Indonesia);**

136.131 **Continue supporting the Multicultural Policy and National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy including by enacting comprehensive equality legislation (Ukraine);**

136.132 **Take more resolute measures in combating racial discrimination, xenophobia and prejudices against members of religious and ethnic minorities, including by actively promoting inter-cultural, inter-ethnic and inter-faith understanding and tolerance (Malaysia);**

136.133 **Continue raising public awareness to combat discrimination, particularly those stemming from Islamophobia and fears of terrorism (Thailand);**

136.134 **Implement public awareness campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and to counter prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, racism, and Islamophobia (United Arab Emirates);**

136.135 **Continue to promote among Australians a comprehensive campaign of tolerance and non-discrimination (Nicaragua);**

136.136 **Protect the rights of indigenous peoples, peasants and other people working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

136.137 **Reinforce measures against acts of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

136.138 **Strengthen measures to combat racial discrimination, including against incitement of discrimination or violence on racial, ethnic or religious grounds (Botswana);**

136.139 **Prevent religiously motivated incidents against Muslims and promote multiculturalism and tolerance (Azerbaijan);**

136.140 **Protect the right to religious belief of all persons in Australia (Nigeria);**

136.141 **Continue to build on progress made in gender equality (Tajikistan);**

136.142 **Develop and implement policies to ensure gender equality throughout society and strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of women, especially women from indigenous communities (South Africa);**

136.143 **Continue to promote gender equality and increase representation of women in public services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

136.144 **Implement measures to reduce the gender pay gap and strengthen women's roles in leadership and managerial positions (India);**

136.145 **Continue introducing measures needed to close the gender pay gap (Israel);**

136.146 **Address the wage gender gaps and improve the status of women in the labour market (Serbia);**

136.147 **Implement further measures to close the gender pay gap (Sierra Leone);**

136.148 **Implement measures to bridge the gender pay gap (Algeria);**

136.149 **Establish mechanisms that would allow the reduction of the gender gap in relation to wages and representation in the labour market (Chile);**

136.150 **Continue conducting awareness-raising activities on human rights, especially rights of women, children, minorities and migrants, to law enforcement officers (Viet Nam);**

136.151 **Continue efforts to achieve further economic empowerment of women (Myanmar);**

136.152 **Implement the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2013, in letter and spirit, to create socio-economic gender parity (Pakistan);**

136.153 **Strengthen efforts to combat family violence against women and children, especially within indigenous communities (United States of America);**

136.154 **Make provision in its national legislation for the crime of domestic violence and take all adequate measures to eliminate it (Portugal);**

136.155 **Penalize the ill-treatment of children, and adopt measures to investigate and punish the situations of vulnerability with regard to women and girls with disabilities (Chile);**

136.156 **Redouble its efforts to reduce violence against women and domestic violence (Azerbaijan);**

136.157 **Step up efforts to combat domestic violence (Belarus);**

136.158 **Continue strengthening the measures taken to reduce violence against women and their children (Libya);**

136.159 **Further effectively fulfil the National plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 by means of sustained funding, independent monitoring and evaluation (Lithuania);**

136.160 **Ensure the effective implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, in particular to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, culturally and linguistically diverse women, and women with disabilities (Singapore);**

136.161 **Continue with implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children with a particular focus on support services and resources available to women living in more remote areas, and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (Croatia);**

136.162 **Effectively implement the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children and strengthen its actions to reduce violence and sexual abuse of women with disabilities and indigenous women (Czech Republic);**

136.163 **Ensure that incidents of violence against women and children are thoroughly investigated and perpetrators of violence are brought to justice (Pakistan);**

136.164 **Make utmost efforts to protect women with disabilities and indigenous women from all forms of violence and discrimination (Republic of Korea);**

136.165 **Remove the reservation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and prohibit corporal punishment of children in the home and all other settings (Estonia);**

136.166 **Further promote protection of the rights of the child, giving emphasis to Indigenous Children (Greece);**

136.167 **Take immediate measures to ensure that all children have access to all levels of education and quality health services (Maldives);**

136.168 **Build on the achievements of the National Framework for Protection of Australian children (2009-2020), (Morocco);**

136.169 **Comprehensively improve the effectiveness of measures to protect the rights of the child (Tajikistan);**

136.170 **Continue with its efforts to protect all children, protect the rights and interests of children and provide vulnerable children with better access to childhood services (Bhutan);**

136.171 **Further strengthen efforts towards birth registration for all, with a view to encouraging access to relevant procedures (Turkey);**

136.172 **Bring the Australian juvenile justice system in conformity with international standards, including removing minors from the adult justice system and ensuring their rehabilitation (Lithuania);**

136.173 **Reform the juvenile justice system in conformity with the international standards and increase the protection of children involved in penal proceedings (Poland);**

136.174 **Abolish the mandatory minimum sentencing of juvenile offenders (Czech Republic);**

136.175 **Improve conditions in youth detention facilities, including through ensuring independent and effective investigation of all allegations of human rights violations therein (Czech Republic);**

136.176 **Develop alternatives to the mandatory sentencing laws placing children as young as 10 years of age in juvenile detention centres (Denmark);**

136.177 **Abolish the sentencing of children to life in prison (Lithuania);**

136.178 **Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Iceland);**

136.179 **Raise the age of the criminal responsibility in accordance with general comment No. 10 of the Committee on the Rights of Child (Uruguay);**

136.180 **Adopt national legislation prohibiting the use of sterilization of adults without their consent, and of children (Germany);**

136.181 **End the practice of enforced sterilization of persons with disabilities for non-therapeutic reasons (France);**

136.182 **Prohibit the sterilization of persons with disabilities, unless they provide their free and informed consent (Spain);**

136.183 **Adopt national uniform legislation prohibiting, except where there is a serious threat to life or health, the sterilisation of children and of adults with disability, in the absence of prior, fully informed and free consent (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

136.184 **Prohibit the non-therapeutic sterilization of any individual who is not mentally competent to consent (Canada);**

136.185 **Provide comprehensive disability protection, with particular attention to the rights of children, while avoiding medical and political practices that affect the freedom and dignity of persons with disabilities (Holy See);**

136.186 **Continue its efforts for a full implementation, in all levels, of the National Disability Strategy (Israel);**

136.187 **Establish a supported decision-making framework in relation with people with disabilities (Israel);**

136.188 **Strengthen measures concerning people with disabilities (Libya);**

136.189 **Continue implementing legislation to address the multiple forms of discrimination on the basis of disability (Panama);**

136.190 **Continue to promote and support programmes such as the Jobs Access Gateway to equip persons with disabilities with the appropriate skills to secure gainful employment (Singapore);**

136.191 **Strengthen measures to prevent all forms of discrimination, ill-treatment or violence against persons with disabilities (Colombia);**

136.192 **Address on a priority basis to, at the administrative and legislative level, the issue of the detention of persons with disabilities who have not been convicted (Costa Rica);**

136.193 **Reinforce the measures to improve conditions of detention, especially for persons with disabilities and the young, as well as to eliminate corporal punishment (Holy See);**

136.194 **Prevent the indefinite detention of persons with mental disabilities (Spain);**

136.195 **Introduce measures to address issues related to the treatment of persons with disabilities, including considering the implementation of recommendations from both the Australian Law Reform Commission's report on Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws, and the Senate inquiry into high levels of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutional and residential settings (New Zealand);**

136.196 **Guarantee the end of the unwarranted use of prisons for the management of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

136.197 **Set up a commission of National Independent Inquiry on Violence and Abuse against People with Disability (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

136.198 **Conduct a national independent investigation into cases of violence and degrading treatment of persons with disabilities and persons suffering from mental illness in institutions and homes for the disabled (Russian Federation);**

136.199 **Prevent the excessive use of force by the police and investigate all complaints thoroughly (Azerbaijan);**

136.200 **Intensify efforts to improve conditions in prisons, in particular to address the problem of overcrowding and the high mortality in prisons (Uzbekistan);**

136.201 **Ensure access to justice by all, including by repealing laws on mandatory sentencing (Botswana);**

136.202 **Adopt the recommendation by the Committee against Torture to review mandatory sentencing laws with a view to abolishing them (Norway);**

136.203 **Continue efforts to train authorities involved in the administration and handling of justice in cases that affect indigenous peoples on the human**

rights of this group of society and review the cases of indigenous detainees, in particular children and women, with a view to providing them adequate assistance (Mexico);

136.204 **Continue to work, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to reduce indigenous incarceration rates (Ireland);**

136.205 **Increase efforts to reduce the imprisonment of indigenous Australians (Uruguay);**

136.206 **Amend its electoral legislation so that any deprivation of the right to vote of citizens serving a prison sentence is reasonable and proportionate and applied only for the committing of the most serious crimes (Czech Republic);**

136.207 **Put equal emphasis and commitment on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (Portugal);**

136.208 **Consider treating economic, social and cultural rights on the same footing, and with the same emphasis as civil and political rights (South Africa);**

136.209 **Protect the rights of older persons and persons with disability to ensure their access to the labour market (Angola);**

136.210 **Take measures to ensure the universal access to healthcare services, paying particular attention to the needs of persons living in rural and remote areas (Portugal);**

136.211 **Improve the quality and coverage of its early childhood care and education for indigenous children and children living in remote areas and ensure adequate resources for implementing bilingual models of education (Republic of Moldova);**

136.212 **Adopt a National Action Plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Netherlands);**

136.213 **Begin a consultative process towards adoption of a National Action Plan on business and human rights (Norway);**

136.214 **Strengthen the normative framework for the protection of human rights, including the monitoring, investigation and reparation for human rights violations committed by Australian enterprises in their territories and in third States (Ecuador);**

136.215 **Further contribute to the global realization of the right to development including through ensuring that its annual ODAs (Official Development Assistance)matches the internationally agreed level of 0.7% of the GDP (Egypt);**

136.216 **Increase its ODA from the current 0.33% to 0.7% of the GDP (Sierra Leone);**

136.217 **Adopt a clear road map to reach ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNI (Bangladesh);**

136.218 **Enhance bilateral cooperation with other countries in the field of human rights especially through dialogue and technical assistance (Viet Nam);**

136.219 **Revise its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to be in line with a fair approach taken by other industrialised countries, so as to be consistent with the full enjoyment of human rights by its people and those in neighbouring countries (Fiji);**

136.220 **Open legal partnership models to all, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Iceland);**

136.221 **Ensure that states' legislation is consistent with the amended Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Israel);**

136.222 **Revise the Marriage Act of 1961 in a way that ensures full equality with respect to the civil institution of marriage (Netherlands);**

136.223 **Legally recognize same-sex marriage (Spain);**

136.224 **Amend the federal Marriage Act to allow same-sex couples to marry by changing the definition of marriage, and provide full recognition of same-sex marriages from overseas (Sweden);**

136.225 **Provide protection to the family as the natural and the fundamental unit of the society (Egypt);**

136.226 **Review the extent and scope of laws governing secret surveillance and moderate the powers and discretion conferred on authorities in this regard (India);**

136.227 **Take concrete measures in order to ensure that any interference with the right to privacy comply with the principles of legality, proportionality and necessity, regardless of the nationality or location of the individuals affected (Brazil);**

136.228 **Ensure that an Australian cannot be deprived of citizenship other than in exceptional circumstances and within the framework of a specific legal procedure (France);**

136.229 **Continue increasing efforts to combat terrorism (Tajikistan);**

136.230 **Improve coordination on trafficking, the monitoring of the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation, ensure the rights of victims are protected, including the right to redress and economic and social support (Lithuania);**

136.231 **Develop a National Plan to combat trafficking in human beings and protect its victims (Russian Federation);**

136.232 **Consider the elaboration of a national and regional strategy for the prevention of trafficking in human beings and further promote human rights based approach to victims of trafficking (Slovakia);**

136.233 **Continue to take comprehensive measures to effectively fight against human trafficking and stamp out the associated phenomenon of contemporary forms of slavery (China);**

136.234 **Expand support to human rights education and training initiatives, particularly for law enforcement officials handling migration issues (Philippines);**

136.235 **Ensure that all migrant children, irrespective of their migration status, have access to education and healthcare services in the exact same terms as Australian children do (Portugal);**

136.236 **Protect the rights of Migrants and eliminate unfair treatment of migrant workers, and ensure their integration in to society (Pakistan);**

136.237 **Consider reviewing existing migration policies to address concerns that hinder accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

136.238 **Undertake relevant safe measures on migrants trying to reach Australian borders according to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Albania);**

136.239 **Take adequate steps to promote and protect the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants (India);**

136.240 **Further promote the safety and living conditions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Australia (Greece);**

136.241 **Closely cooperate with the UNHCR and other relevant organizations to provide more adequate protection and proper treatment of asylum seekers and refugees (Republic of Korea);**

136.242 **Take under consideration making its migration and humanitarian policies more flexible with a view to a larger reception of migrants and refugees (Peru);**

136.243 **Improve conditions of reception and detention of refugees and migrants in accordance with international standards (Uzbekistan);**

136.244 **Treat appropriately all the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers who have reached the Australian shores, to effectively safeguard their human rights (China);**

136.245 **Review its immigration laws and policies and ensure compliance with its international obligations, especially regarding the rights of children (Fiji);**

136.246 **Review current immigration policies so to improve the rights of refugees and asylum seekers (Italy);**

136.247 **Ensure refugee/asylum-seekers get their rights (Pakistan);**

136.248 **Ensure all children of asylum seekers are protected (Maldives);**

136.249 **Continue to respect the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees despite the difficulties (Djibouti);**

136.250 **Review legislation on migration and refugee status (Mexico);**

136.251 **Make every effort to guarantee the human rights of asylum seekers, bearing in mind international obligations (Holy See);**

136.252 **Ensure that the issues of asylum seekers and refugees are addressed in line with the principles of the Bali Process, and Australia's other human rights and humanitarian obligations (Indonesia);**

136.253 **Ensure that Australia lives up to its international obligations regarding asylum seekers and refugees (Rwanda);**

136.254 **Continue to ensure transparency and accountability in all procedures related to its treatment of refugees and asylum seekers (Japan);**

136.255 **Ensure that no child is detained on the basis of his/her immigration status (Luxembourg);**

136.256 **Remove children and their families and other individuals at risk, in particular survivors of torture and trauma, from immigration detention centres (Germany);**

136.257 **Cease the detention of children in immigration detention centres (Maldives);**

136.258 **Immediately end the mandatory detention of migrant children and ensure that the best interests of the children are respected (Slovenia);**

136.259 **Develop alternative solutions to mandatory detention of asylum seekers, particularly in the case of children (France);**

136.260 **Repeal provisions which establish compulsory detention for those who enter the country in an irregular manner (Guatemala);**

136.261 **Immediately halt mandatory detention of asylum seeker children (Maldives);**

136.262 **Repeal the provisions establishing the mandatory detention of persons entering its territory irregularly (Bangladesh);**

136.263 **End the policy of mandatory detention for all unauthorized arrivals, ensure that detention is only applied as a last resort, establish statutory time limits for detention and ensure access to an effective judicial remedy to review the necessity of detention (Slovenia);**

136.264 **Review its national migration and asylum policies with a view to bring them in line with the Convention against Torture as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly with regard to conditions of detention (Honduras);**

136.265 **Ensure that conditions of detention are in line with international norms and standards in particular the detention of migrants and asylum seekers (Rwanda);**

136.266 **Take practical measures to cease the maltreatment of and violence against the refugees, including sexual violence by the officials in detention centres (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

136.267 **Allow human rights organisations full access to detention centres (Maldives);**

136.268 **Allow access to independent observers to centres of detention of migrants which are outside of the Australian territory (Spain);**

136.269 **Ensure full compliance with its international obligations regarding the right of asylum seekers and refugees by expediting the processing of applications by asylum seekers at the various processing centres (Ghana);**

136.270 **Ensure that asylum seekers claims are processed in accordance with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and that detention occurs only when necessary, for a minimal period, and that access to judicial oversight of detention is ensured (Norway);**

136.271 **Ensure that measures taken with regard to asylum-seekers are in full compliance with obligations under international law and human rights, including the principle of non-refoulement and that the detention of asylum-seekers is only done when absolutely necessary and for a minimal period of time (Sweden);**

136.272 **Do not detain migrants other than in exceptional cases, limit this detention to six months and bring detention conditions into line with international standards in the field of human rights, as previously recommended (Switzerland);**

136.273 **Review the new federal immigration laws so to take into consideration the humanitarian aspects of a possible expulsion of foreign citizens with permanent resident visas, especially if they do not speak the language of their citizenship or have no longer connections with the country of origin of their family (Italy);**

136.274 **Ensure that asylum seekers have access to legal assistance during the process and adopt measures, together with third countries, so that conditions in the processing centres in countries with which Australia has agreements, are in conformity with international laws and standards (Uruguay);**

136.275 **Closely monitor the processing of refugees and asylum seekers in offshore centers to ensure that their human rights are respected (United States of America);**

136.276 **Immediately close the Nauru and Manus Island detention centres (Maldives);**

136.277 **Review the current regional offshore processing arrangement, and policy of mandatory detention of refugees, stateless persons and migrants, and uphold all human rights obligations towards refugees, stateless persons and migrants, including the principle of non-refoulement (Kenya);**

136.278 **In line with its tradition as a resettlement country, reverse its policies of mandatory detention and offshore processing (Brazil);**

136.279 **Stop the offshore processing of asylum requests (Luxembourg);**

136.280 **Ensure that all asylum seekers and refugees who arrive in Australia are processed there regardless of their mode of arrival and ensure that the conditions at the offshore processing centers comply with international law and standards (Slovenia);**

136.281 **Review the policy of offshore processing of asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island and review the implementation of the Migration and Maritime Power Legislation Amendment Bill, making sure that the international obligation of non refoulement is strictly upheld (Germany);**

136.282 **Ensure the full respect of the non-refoulement obligations, with regard to all asylum seekers (Slovenia);**

136.283 **Respect fully the principle of non-refoulement enshrined in the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Switzerland);**

136.284 **Adopt the necessary measures to put an end to the practice of interception and return of asylum seekers, in conformity with international refugee law and international human rights law (Argentina);**

136.285 **Put an end to the practice of pushing-back boats transporting migrants to the high seas (Spain);**

136.286 **Respect its obligation not to return intercepted migrants in international waters in conformity with international law and norms (Guatemala);**

136.287 **Give full protection to asylum seekers in accordance with international law, and abolish the practice of pushing the boats of asylum seekers back at sea (Nigeria);**

136.288 **Cease its practice of interceptions and "push-backs" in its borders (Bangladesh);**

136.289 **Proceed with the adoption and implementation of a code of conduct for the treatment of asylum seekers, and stop the practice of intercepting and pushing back the boats of the asylum-seekers into international waters, with the implementation of measures consistent with the provisions of international law and international standards (Bahrain);**

136.290 **Instil a transparent, human rights-based approach related to the treatment of asylum seekers following their arrival, including the cessation of transfers to third countries (Turkey).**

137. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

138. The Government of Australia committed to holding a referendum to recognize Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the Australian Constitution in the next term of Parliament. The Government will undertake a national consultation process to ensure all Australians, and especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, have an opportunity to engage in this important national conversation.

139. Australia committed to resettling 12,000 refugees fleeing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. Australia will also provide humanitarian support to more than 240,000 Syrian and Iraqi people who have been forced to flee their homes or seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

140. The Government of Australia committed to addressing the scourge of family violence. A $100 million package of measures announced on 24 September 2015 will provide a safety net for women and children at high risk of experiencing violence. The package will improve frontline support and services, leverage innovative technologies to keep women safe, and provide education resources to help change community attitudes to violence and abuse. The package includes $21 million for specific measures to help indigenous women and communities.

141. Australia committed to improving the way the criminal justice system treats people with cognitive disability who are unfit to plead or found not guilty by reason of mental impairment. As part of this, the Government committed to a national effort to analyse existing data and develop best practice resources for our jurisdictions.

142. Australia committed to taking further steps to strengthen advocacy for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. This will be informed by the outcomes of a recently established inquiry being undertaken by Parliament.

143. Australia committed to promoting and protecting the rights of older people internationally by modelling and advocating better use of existing United Nations human rights reporting mechanisms. Australia committed to including a dedicated section on the rights of "older Australians" in all relevant human rights treaty and universal periodic review reports. Australia will seek to have the rights of older persons reflected in United Nations resolutions and encourage existing Special Rapporteurs to consider the application

of their mandate to older persons in close collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

144. Australia will continue taking steps to end unlawful discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. The Government committed to removing exemptions for Australian state and territory laws from the implementation of national anti-discrimination laws. This commitment will take effect from 31 July 2016.

145. Australia committed to supporting the protection and promotion of human rights through its foreign aid programme by promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability. The delegation welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and affirmed its commitment to advancing this agenda. The Government committed to applying its Development for All: 2015-2020 strategy to strengthen disability-inclusive development and its international Indigenous Peoples Strategy 2015-2019 to advance the interests of indigenous peoples in Australia and around the world.

146. Finally, the Government committed to work with the Australian Human Rights Commission, to develop a public and accessible process for monitoring progress against universal periodic review recommendations. This will include a periodic statement on progress against the recommendations on behalf of the Government. Australia will also designate a standing national mechanism to strengthen its overall engagement with United Nations human rights reporting.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Australia was headed by Mr. John REID, and composed of the following members:

Parliamentary Delegation

- The Hon Philip RUDDOCK MP, Chair, Human Rights Sub-Committee, Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade;
- Senator Anne McEWEN, Deputy Chair, Human Rights Sub-Committee, Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade;

Delegation

- Mr. John QUINN, Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Conference on Disarmament, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Mr. Andrew GOLEDZINOWSKI, Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Mr. Paul PFITZNER, Acting Assistant Secretary, Human Rights Policy Branch, Attorney-General's Department;
- Mr. James CHRISTIAN, Group Manager, Disability, Employment & Carers Group, Department of Social Services;
- Ms. Bronwyn FIELD, Assistant Secretary, Intergovernmental and Budget Branch, Indigenous Affairs Group, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Indigenous Affairs);
- Mr. Bernard PHILIP, Assistant Secretary, Human Rights Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Mr. Steve McGLYNN, Assistant Secretary, Legal Advice and Operational Support, Department of Immigration and Border Protection;
- Ms. Kate WALLACE, Senior Advisor (Director), International Engagement, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women);
- Mr. Andrew SYMONDS, Senior Legal Officer, Universal Periodic Review Team, Attorney-General's Department;
- Mr. Kevin PLAYFORD, Director, Human Rights and Indigenous Issues Section, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Ms. Tanya BENNETT, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Ms. Kate O'MALLEY, Minister Counsellor (Migration), Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Ms. Emily HILL, Second Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;

- Ms. Renee ARIAN, Human Rights Adviser, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Ms. Sally O'DONNELL, Executive Officer (Migration), Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Ms. Jessica NGUYEN, Intern, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Ms. Julia BRAYBROOKS, Intern, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Mr. Richard GRIFFIN, Intern, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva.